

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, and in light of the remarks which follow.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 because the Amendment places the application into condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein), or places the application into better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally-rejected claims, does not raise the issue of new matter, and does not raise any new issues requiring additional search and/or consideration since the response is directed to subject matter previously considered during prosecution. The amendments and remarks presented supplement those in Applicants' earlier amendments, and are presented here in further response to issues raised in the final rejection. Applicants respectfully request entry of the response.

Claims 2-15 and 18-23 are pending in the application, Claim 1 having been canceled above without prejudice to disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

By the above amendments, Applicants deleted Claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer and amended the remaining claims to address the claim objection, correct minor informalities and/or to make the claims depend from allowable Claims 4 and 9-11. A claim that has been amended in a manner that does not narrow the claim's scope should be accorded its full range of equivalents.

Turning now to the Official Action, the claims stand objected to for including various informalities. In order to obviate the objection, Applicants have amended the

claims in accordance with the Official Action's suggestion. In particular, where appropriate, Applicants have attempted to correct the inadvertent error in the definition of variables R, R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R^{1'}, R^{2'} and R^{3'}. If the Examiner believes that additional amendments are needed, Applicants would be pleased to consider any further suggestions the Examiner may have.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objections.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 12-15 and 18-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over King (U.S. Patent No. 5,696,210) in view of Haselhorst (U.S. Patent No. 6,346,562). For at least the reasons that follow, withdrawal of the rejection is in order.

As Applicants have canceled Claim 1 and amended the remaining claims to depend from allowed Claims 4 and 9-11, instead of canceled Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection over the combination of King in view of Haselhorst is moot and all claims in the application are in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) over King in view of Haselhorst.

From the foregoing, Applicants earnestly solicit further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

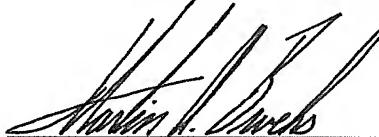
If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: October 3, 2008

By:


Martin A. Bruehs
Registration No. 45635

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703 836 6620